

NCA
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POLITICAL FEATURE 1-1739
FRED COOPER/NEW YORK

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ELECTION '76: THE NORTHEAST

ANNCR:

SEVERAL NORTHEASTERN INDUSTRIAL STATES ARE PLAYING A MAJOR PART IN THE ELECTORAL CALCULATIONS OF BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES. HERE WITH A SURVEY OF THE CONTESTS IN THOSE STATES IS VOA'S FRED COOPER IN NEW YORK.

TEXT:

TOGETHER, THE THREE URBAN INDUSTRIAL GIANTS OF NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, AND NEW JERSEY, AND THE TINY STATE OF DELAWARE, IN THE NORTHEAST REGION WILL CAST EIGHTY-EIGHT ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT, CHOOSE EIGHTY CONGRESSMEN, THREE SENATORS AND ONE GOVERNOR. THERE WILL ALSO BE HUNDREDS OF LOCAL CONTESTS AND PUBLIC REFERENDA.

DELAWARE HAS ONLY THREE ELECTORAL VOTES, BUT THE OTHER STATES ARE EXPECTED TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THIS ELECTION. NEW YORK WITH FORTY-ONE ELECTORAL VOTES, PENNSYLVANIA WITH TWENTY-SEVEN AND NEW JERSEY WITH SEVENTEEN ARE CONSIDERED CRUCIAL TO THE HOPES OF BOTH PRESIDENT FORD AND GOVERNOR CARTER. MISTER CARTER MUST WIN THESE STATES TO OFFSET EXPECTED LOSSES IN THE MIDWEST AND WEST. BUT IF MISTER FORD CAN PRY THESE STATES AWAY FROM THE DEMOCRAT, HE WILL BE A DEFINITE STEP AHEAD IN THE ELECTION RACE.

POLITICALLY, THESE STATES OF THE NORTHEAST REGION ARE VERY SIMILAR. ALL HAVE LARGE URBAN AREAS WHERE SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE IS STRONG. BUT IN THE MORE CONSERVATIVE SUBURBS, THE MARGIN SHIFTS TO PRESIDENT FORD. CATHOLICS MAKE UP ABOUT A THIRD OF THE VOTERS IN THE AREA, A FACT THAT MAY PRESENT A PROBLEM FOR MISTER CARTER. SOME CATHOLICS ARE SAID TO DISAGREE WITH HIS STAND ON ABORTION OR FEEL UNEASY ABOUT HIS SOUTHERN BAPTIST RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND.

BUT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FOR GOVERNOR CARTER MAY BE VOTER APATHY. OPINION POLLS SHOW HIM LEADING IN NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA, AND PERHAPS EKING OUT A VICTORY IN NEW JERSEY. HOWEVER HIS SUPPORTERS FEAR THAT DEMOCRATS WHO ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GOVERNOR CARTER MAY SIMPLY NOT VOTE, ERASING HIS MARGIN OF VICTORY. WHEN THE CAMPAIGN BEGAN, MISTER CARTER'S LEAD IN THE NORTHEAST WAS SIGNIFICANT. BUT IT HAS ERODED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT ANY OF A NUMBER OF FACTORS COULD WIPE IT OUT.

(OPT) OF THE OTHER ELECTORAL CONTESTS IN THE REGION, THE NEW YORK SENATE RACE HAS DRAWN THE MOST ATTENTION. DEMOCRAT DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, THE FORMER UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADOR, IS SAID TO BE COMFORTABLY AHEAD OF INCUMBENT REPUBLICAN SENATOR JAMES BUCKLEY. MISTER MOYNIHAN HAS CAMPAIGNED WITH THE PROMISE THAT HE WILL SPEAK UP FOR NEW YORK IN THE SENATE AS FORCEFULLY AS HE SPOKE FOR THE UNITED STATES IN THE UNITED NATIONS. SENATOR BUCKLEY HAS COUNTERED THAT MISTER MOYNIHAN IS FOR INCREASED GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF NEW YORKERS.

IN PENNSYLVANIA, THE RACE FOR THE SEAT OF RETIRING SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER HUGH SCOTT PITTS REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN JOHN HEINZ AGAINST DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM GREEN. BOTH MEN ARE IN THEIR LATE THIRTIES AND ARE HEIRS TO LEGACIES OF SOME SORT. CONGRESSMAN GREEN'S FATHER WAS FOR MANY YEARS THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER OF PHILADELPHIA, CONGRESSMAN HEINZ IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY KNOWN FOR A BRAND OF PICKLES AND OTHER CANNED FOODS, FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. IF CONGRESSMAN GREEN WINS, HE'LL BE THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA IN FOURTEEN YEARS.

THE BIGGEST PUBLIC ISSUE IN NEW JERSEY IS WHETHER TO PERMIT GAMBLING CASINOS TO OPERATE IN THE SEASIDE RESORT TOWN OF ATLANTIC

CITY. SUPPORTERS OF CASINOS SAY THEY WILL BRING INCREASED TOURISM AND TAX REVENUES. BUT A REFERENDUM ON CASINOS TWO YEARS AGO WAS DEFEATED BECAUSE OF MORAL OBJECTIONS AND THE FEAR THAT CASINOS WOULD FOSTER ORGANIZED CRIME. (END OPT)

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